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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**POL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION
NORTHEAST, NORTH VIETNAM**

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**POL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION
NORTHEAST NORTH VIETNAM****ABSTRACT**

1. A recently identified POL pipeline under construction in northeast North Vietnam and extending into China was observed [REDACTED]. The new line joins the North Vietnamese pipeline system near Hon Gay and crosses the China-North Vietnam border near Mong Cai. The alignment follows the northeast coast of North Vietnam generally and is observed on the extent of coverage just north of the border crossing. This report contains a map showing the alignment of the new pipeline and two photos of points on the line.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

2. Construction of a major POL pipeline into China along the North Vietnamese coast was seen [REDACTED]. Initial indications of a new pipeline under construction along the northeast coast were identified on low-altitude photography [REDACTED]. On these dates, open trenching for the pipeline was observed extending approximately 25 nautical miles (nm) northeast of Hon Gay.

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3. The new POL pipeline joins the existing North Vietnam POL pipeline system by a dual junction with the Hon Gay-to-Hai Duong dual line at 20-59-27N 106-58-52E, just northwest of Tieu Giao Petroleum Products Storage Depot [REDACTED]. From this junction the pipeline generally parallels Route 183 to the northeast until it turns north at 21-04-14N 107-14-38E. It then parallels Route 18 to the vicinity of Tien Yen, North Vietnam. The pipeline crosses the Song Pho Cu River at 21-20-38N 107-22-30E, and then follows the alignment of Route 402 1 nm. The line turns northeast at 21-23-00N 107-22-50E and generally parallels Route 4. It crosses the North Vietnam/China border at 21-38-38N 107-45-06E, approximately 14 nm northwest of Mong Cai, North Vietnam (Figure 3). The northernmost extent of the pipeline is observed 11 nm inside China at 21-40-00N 107-53-00E.

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4. Three double river crossings and at least one triple river crossing are observed along the pipeline. Double line crossings are at the Song Ka Long River, the Tien Yen River, and an unnamed stream 3.3 nm southwest of Tien Yen. Evidence of at least three pipes is observed at the Song Pho Cu River crossing. These multiple crossings may provide a backup in the event of damage at these vulnerable points on

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the pipeline. The possibility of a dual pipe along the entire line cannot be discounted.

5. Two POL storage areas associated with the pipeline were under construction in October. Both are in North Vietnam. One storage area is at 21-38-35N 107-45-13E on the south bank of the Song Ka Long River, which forms the China/North Vietnam border in this area. This facility contains 42 horizontal tanks in excavations. Thirteen additional tanks near the storage site will probably be added to the storage facility. The other storage area is at 21-20-21N 107-21-08E, 3 nm west of Tien Yen. This area contains 28 horizontal tanks.

6. In some areas the exact alignment of the pipeline cannot be confirmed owing to vegetation or a lack of trench scarring. The actual and estimated alignment of the new line extends for approximately 77 nm from Hon Gay to the extent of photographic coverage 11 nm inside China.

REFERENCES

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MAP

ACIC. Series TPC, Sheet J-11AG, scale 1:500,000

REQUIREMENT

NPIC/IEG/SGD/SAB Project 120401NB

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